

Business and MDGs



10th International Business Forum 2005

11 to 13 September 2005

Helen & Martin Kimmel Center at the New York University,
New York City

focusing on

Business and the Millennium Development Goals:
An Active Role for Globally Responsible Companies

inWent

Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH Capacity Building International, Germany

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The year 2005 is a decisive year for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) declared five years ago by the United Nations General Assembly to target the global issues hunger, health, education, gender equality, environmental sustainability and equal economic opportunity. Whether concrete steps are being taken now to put the MDG indicators back on the track of goal achievement or the ambitious project will fail. To avoid failure, the actions of global business – a decisive player in global structural politics – will necessarily move into the center of the MDG discussions.

A key role for business

“Corporate involvement with the MDGs is vital for a healthy and secure world, and is excellent for the long-term morale and performance of socially responsible companies” – says the renowned economist and special advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Jeffrey Sachs. Also the corporate world itself assumes responsibility for development: fighting poverty is the first and most important of global problems to be tackled according to the views of the delegates to this years' World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.



In focus

The International Business Forum 2005 is host to a concentrated learning process on goals, good practice examples and tools for private sector approaches to the MDGs. The aim of this learning process is to showcase, that business is crucial for MDG attainment, but only then, and as far as it is being recognized that, vice versa, MDG attainment *and sustainment* is crucial for business.

Recent and innovative answers from a business perspective

The International Business Forum 2005 tackles the questions related to *Business and MDGs*, as for instance:

- What are the incentives for businesses to engage in MDG achievement?
- What are the anticipated gains from this?
- What are the concrete steps at management and shop-floor-level?
- What are the benefits for shareholder and stakeholder relations?
- What are the benefits for the relations with society at large?
- What are the risks?
- In which way can businesses interact with the UN system and donor agencies in MDG achievement?
- What is the role and potentials of SMEs?

Participation

The International Business Forum 2005 brings together representatives from businesses and business-driven organizations. It connects the opinion leaders with those who want to follow suit. Participants originate from industrialized and developing countries, and also from those middle income countries that increasingly gain importance as emerging markets, but at the same time host a large proportion of the world's poor: *anchor countries*, such as China, India, Brazil and South Africa. The business-driven discussions are reflected and enriched by contributors from public sector, academia, civil society and international organizations.

The conference language is English.

Link to UN process

Very close in terms of time, space and attendance to the United Nations Millennium+5 Summit on the review of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs, the International Business Forum 2005 is a business interface to the most important event on this year's global policy making agenda. The International Business Forum 2005 is the critical junction for businesses on the road to enhanced significant MDG engagement.

Business and MDGs

The International Business Forum 2005 is not a single and isolated event, but embedded in a broader capacity building process focusing on *Business and MDGs*. This process encompasses, for instance, an online resource center, moderated e-discussions or follow-up fora.

For details on *Business and MDGs* and for updated information on the International Business Forum 2005, please visit: www.businessandmdgs.org



Past International Business Fora

- 1995 Berlin: Sustainable Germany, Implications for the South
- 1997 New York: The International Business Forum on Agenda 21, 5 Years after Rio
- 1998 Berlin: Greening the Financial Sector
- 1999 Berlin: Sustainable Consumption and Production: Creating Opportunities in a Changing World
- 2000 Hannover: Sustainable Business and Social Responsibility as a Dialogue: Future Works – Labor, Sustainable Business and Social Responsibility
- 2001 Berlin: Investment, Environment and Corporate Social Responsibility
- 2002 Johannesburg: From Rio to Johannesburg – A Business Perspective
- 2003 Johannesburg, Hanoi, San Jose: Regional Trade and Sustainable Development
- 2004 Feldafing: Regional Trade and Sustainable Development

InWEnt – Capacity Building International, Germany

InWEnt stands for the development of human resources and organizations within the framework of international cooperation. InWEnt's services cater to skilled and management staff as well as to decision makers from business, politics, administration and civil societies worldwide. InWEnt cooperates equally with partners from developing, transition and industrialized countries and gets through to approximately 55,000 persons yearly.

For questions regarding the 10th International Business Forum please contact:

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The World Bank Institute (WBI)

WBI is the Learning, Knowledge and Capacity Building arm of the World Bank Group. It trains leaders, decision makers, and others to develop and implement policies on poverty reduction, trade, corporate governance and corporate responsibility, environment, AIDS, corruption, education, health, and more. WBI networks connect decision makers around the globe, allowing them to share information and compare experiences.

WBI programs are offered in more than 150 countries. Clients include government officials and policymakers, staff from nongovernmental organizations, business representatives, journalists, academics, teachers and children, and World Bank staff.

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Instituto Ethos, Brazil

Institute Ethos is a leading CSR organization in Brazil and a global reference on the theme. Ethos mission is to mobilize, encourage and help companies manage their business in a socially responsible way, making them partners in building a sustainable and fair society. Their main characteristic is their interest in establishing ethical patterns for the relationship with employees, customers, suppliers, community, shareholders, public power, and the environment.

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The UN Global Compact

The UN Global Compact brings companies together with UN agencies, labour and civil society to advance universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. Through the power of collective action, the Global Compact seeks to advance responsible corporate citizenship so that business can be part of the solution to the challenges of globalisation.

In this way, the private sector - in partnership with other social actors - can help realize the Secretary-General's vision of a more sustainable and inclusive global economy.

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